United Nations S/2001/835

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 August 2001

Original: English

Letter dated 31 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

As was indicated at the wrap-up meeting held on 29 June on the work of the Security Council for the month of June 2001, I am enclosing a paper containing salient points of our discussion and suggestions for follow-up (see annex).

I should be grateful if the content of this letter and its annex were brought to the attention of members of the Council and issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Anwarul Karim **Chowdhury**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
and President of the Council for the month of June 2001

01-52568 (E) 310801

Annex to the letter dated 31 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Salient points for follow-up of the wrap-up discussion on the work of the Security Council for the month of June 2001

1. Monthly programme of work

The Council should reflect on how to remain seized of the issues before it in a proactive manner as a conscious policy decision, not as routine calendar events.

The Council should reflect on the rationalization of its monthly programme of work by setting priorities and reflecting on the effectiveness of its meetings and decisions.

2. Follow-up of decisions

The Council should systematically follow up its decisions and see that necessary support is secured to implement its decisions.

The Council should ensure that the Secretary-General is given the human, material and financial resources to implement its decisions.

3. Council missions

A useful means and a proactive instrument is Council missions to conflict areas. The Council should take advantage more often of sending missions to conflict areas.

The findings and recommendations of the Council missions should be followed up effectively.

The preparation for Council missions to conflict areas should include brainstorming sessions to define the objectives and strategies.

There is need, before the departure of Council missions to conflict areas, for meetings with the troop contributors and with other interested parties who feel they have views to convey about the particular situation, be they United Nations agencies or perhaps even non-governmental organizations, as the situation demands.

4. Cooperation with troop-contributing countries

The adoption of resolution 1353 (2001) on cooperation with troop-contributing countries has marked a major step forward. Its implementation has to be ensured.

5. Peacekeeping operations

The Council should also give its attention to some of the other operational areas of peacekeeping missions.

The Secretary-General has reported at some length in his recent report on the implementation of the Brahimi report, addressing the problems concerning civilian components in peace operations, and the need for larger and wider civilian components in the missions, such as the United Nations Observer Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) and the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). The Council needs to take up those proposals for consideration.

The Council must actively support the Secretary-General's efforts to continue to improve the United Nations peacekeeping machinery.

6. Relations with the press

The Council's relations with the press, the media and the public need specific attention. Steps should be taken to facilitate information-sharing between the Council and the Department of Public Information and to strengthen arrangements for greater media attention to the Council's work.

The possibility of having a spokesperson of the Security Council President needs to be explored.

7. Openness, transparency, participation

The Council should have increased recourse to open briefings, allowing all Members better access to information regarding developments in international peace and security and related United Nations operations and assistance efforts.

8. Coordination with other organs and bodies

Opportunities for the Council to have greater interaction and coordination with other organs and bodies of the United Nations should be explored.

The Working Group on Documentation and Procedures should meet regularly to review implementation of the agreed measures and to explore improvement of the working methods and documentation of the Council.

9. Monthly wrap-up meeting

Monthly wrap-up meetings should be as informal and interactive as possible. Monthly wrap-up meetings should be held in public.

Such meetings would be useful in making assessments of the effects of Council actions on the issues and in identifying further steps to be taken.